

The BROAD AX

HEW TO THE LINE.

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BRUNO AND THE CHURCH

That Eminent Scientific Author
Burned At the Stake.

For Proclaiming "The Doctrine
Of The Plurality Of Worlds."

Whenever we have any occasion to pass strictly orthodox churches it always causes the warm blood which courses through our veins to become cold as ice water, and our sympathetic heart to become sad and weary, when we think of the vast number of liberty-loving men and women who have been put to death by its leaders because they refused to believe all of their nonsensical ideas and childish theories, and not among the least of that great number who felt the strong arm of the church was Giordano Bruno, who was one of the greatest scientific men that the world has so far produced, yet he was very cruelly tortured and foully put to death by the church simply because he could not and would not remain silent concerning the false doctrine which the church was teaching respecting the construction of the universe.

Bruno was also one of the most eminent scientific authors of his time or generation. His master or most valuable works are entitled "The Infinity of the Universe," "Evening Conversation on Ash Wednesday," an apology for "The Copernican System," and of "The One Sole Cause of Things." To these may be added an allegory published in 1584, "The Expulsion of the Triumphant Beast." He also collected for the use of future astronomers all the observations he could find respecting the new star which so suddenly appeared in the heavens in Cassiopeia, A. D. 1572.

Originally Bruno was intended for the church, but he was led into doubt by his meditations on the subject of transubstantiation and the immaculate conception. Not caring to conceal his opinion he soon fell under censure of the spiritual authorities, and it became necessary for him to seek refuge in Switzerland, France, England and Germany. But his tormentors followed his tracks remorselessly, and they eventually hunted him back to sunny Italy, where he was arrested while residing in Venice, and he was confined in the Plombi for six years without books, or paper, or friends.

In his "Evening Conversations" he insisted that "the Scriptures were never intended to teach science, but morals only; that they cannot be received as of any authority on astronomical and physical subjects; especially must we reject the view they reveal to us of the construction of the world, that the earth is a flat surface supported on pillars; that the sky is a firmament, the floor of heaven. On the contrary we must believe that the universe is infinite, that it is filled with self-luminous and opaque worlds, many of them inhabited; that there is nothing above or around us but space and bright twinkling stars."

His meditations on these subjects had forced him to the conclusion that "there is an intellect which animates the universe, and of this intellect the visible world is only an emanation or manifestation, originated and sustained by force derived from it, and if that would be withdrawn all things would disappear. That every thing is ready to become organized and to bust into life; that the gods are there-

fore "the one soul of things, the all in all."

On the advice of the spiritual fathers Bruno was removed from Venice to the beautiful city of Rome, and confined in the Prison of the Inquisition, accused not only of being a heretic, but also a heresiarch who had written things unseemly concerning religion, the special charge preferred against him being that "he had taught the plurality of worlds," a doctrine which will ever be considered repugnant to the teachings of the Scriptures," and after being imprisoned for another period of two years he was brought before his Judges and declared guilty of the act alleged, and he was excommunicated, and on his nobly refusing to recant he was delivered over to the secular authorities to be punished "as mercifully as possible, without the shedding of his blood," the horrible formula for burning a prisoner at the stake, knowing well that though his tormentors might or could destroy his body, his thoughts would still live in the hearts of those who have from ancient times to the present endeavored to hold aloft the torch of reason and of love. He said to his judges, "Perhaps it is with greater fear that you pass the sentence upon me than I receive it." The sentence was carried into effect, and Bruno was burned at the stake in the great city of Rome, Feb. 16, 1600.

No one can recall without sentiments of pity the sufferings of all those countless martyrs, both men and women, who have surrendered their lives for the sake of their religious opinions, but the great majority of them always had a powerful and an unflinching support. The passage from this life to the next through the dark valley of death, though a hard trial, was the passage from transient trouble to eternal happiness, an escape from the cruelty of this hard and unfeeling world to the charity of heaven on their way through the dismal valley, the martyrs firmly believed there was an invisible hand that led them, a friend that would guide them all the more gently and firmly because of the terrors of the flames. But for our highly esteemed and valiant friend there was no such support. The philosophical opinions, for the sake of which Bruno surrendered his life, could give him no consolation, for he was compelled to fight his last great battle single-handed and alone.

On next Friday, Feb. 16, three hundred and six years shall have elapsed since Giordano Bruno was burned to death at the stake and his ashes scattered to the four corners of the earth, as it were, therefore on that day let our orthodox theologians, their followers, the enemies of science and progress, rejoice with those who have always kept well to the front in the onward march of the human race and civilization, that the theories and teachings which were advanced by the immortal Bruno are acknowledged to be correct by all the most enlightened nations on the face of the earth.

Mrs. J. Hockley Smiley is able to be up again after a week's confinement to her bed.



DR. A. WILBERFORCE WILLIAMS.

One of the Leading and Most Popular Physicians and Surgeons in Chicago, Secretary of the Sandy W. Trice & Company, and Treasurer of the Black Diamond Development Company.

THE WARREN-WEISIGER WEDDING.

The Most Brilliant Ever Held Among the Afro-Americans in the History of Chicago.

Wednesday evening at half past five Miss Bessie Warren, the talented, highly accomplished and beautiful daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Warren, who are among the oldest, most highly respected and substantial Afro-American citizens in this city or the middle west, was united in marriage to Mr. Fernando Weisiger, at the palatial home of the brides parents, 3421 Dearborn street.

Rev. A. J. Carey, the eloquent and progressive pastor of Bethel church, and Bishop C. T. Shaffer performed the wedding ceremony, and it was the most impressive and brilliantly conducted that has ever been witnessed, and the scene and the occasion will never fade from the memories of the contracting parties and their honored guests.

The bride was given away by her father. Her bridal dress of white liberty satin, trimmed in cream lace, chiffon and pearl ornaments, caused her to resemble a lovely fairy queen. Mrs. Warren, the bride's mother, was costumed in pearl grey chiffon taffeta silk, trimmed in baby blue pailon velvet and cream lace.

Miss Arville Williams was the maid of honor, and she was gowned in white messeline silk, trimmed in cream lace. Miss Genevieve Lee was the bridesmaid, and wore pink liberty silk trimmed in lace.

John Duncan, Danville, Ky., was the best man and Theodore Cowan served as groomsman.

Master Adolph Simms was the ring-bearer, and he wore a white full dress suit. The little Misses Gladys Anderson and St. Claire White were the ribbon girls, who were dressed in white silk. Margaret Polk and Maudella Sweeney were the flower girls, and they looked ever so pretty dressed in white and pink china silk.

Misses India Demming, Estella Hammonds, Jennie Turner and Hazel Hodge, and Messrs. Samuel White, Miles Blah Alvin Cruikshank, Samuel Carter and Richelieu Cheatham composed the receiving party.

The decorations throughout the entire house were pink and white, which produced a most pleasing effect, and no expense was spared in this feature of the wedding.

Prof. Sweeney's orchestra discoursed sweet and enchanting music throughout the evening.

As the wedding hour approached and until 11 o'clock the parlors were thronged by the most prominent and elegantly dressed men and women that have ever assembled on a like occasion in this city. Both sides of Dearborn street, from Thirty-fourth to Thirty-fifth streets, were solidly lined with carriages, and upon alighting their occupants were ushered through a canvas-covered archway which extended from the edge of the sidewalk to the main entrance to the house, and each and every one of them declared or affirmed that they had never attended nor witnessed a wedding on such a magnificent scale as the Warren-Weisiger.

Six hundred invitations were sent out, and among the guests from out of the city were Mr. John Duncan, Danville, Ky.; Miss Lettie Floyd, Danville, Ky.; Mr. and Mrs. Matthews, Milwaukee Wis.; Mrs. Robinson, Omaha, Neb.; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence and Miss Patterson, St. Paul, Minn. Mrs. A. T. Smiley served, and in every way she proved herself equal to the occasion, and the wedding supper was very tempting and elaborate. The table was beautifully decorated in pink and white, and in the center stood the large bridal cake.

It is entirely consistent to state that so far no newly married couple among the race in this city ever received as many rich and costly presents as Mr. and Mrs. Weisiger, who have from girlhood and boyhood been held in the highest esteem by a large circle of friends. And The Broad Ax joins with their numerous friends in wishing them a most happy, pleasant and enjoyable voyage on the matrimonial sea.

Mr. and Mrs. Weisiger will be at home to their friends, 3421 Dearborn street, Sunday, Feb. 11, from two to six p. m.

John A. Linn, Clerk of the Circuit Court, was indicted twenty-five times by the grand jury last Saturday. He is charged with committing forgery and every other crime contrary to the peace and dignity of the people of Illinois. In 1904 The Broad Ax bitterly opposed the re-election of John Linn to any office within the gift of the people of Cook county, for it figured out that he was not only a rank Negro-hater, but also a grand rascal, and time has proven that we were right in our contention, and it would have been much better if the electorate would have recorded their votes in favor of the election of honest and straightforward Harry Hildreth, Jr., who would make a first-class Clerk of the Circuit Court.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON IN POLITICS

His Weak Denial Is No Denial
At All.

Last week we said we should this week go more fully into the "denial" by Dr. Booker T. Washington of the Associated Press dispatch that one influence which led President Roosevelt to adopt the policy of displacing by white men the Colored office-holders in the South was the "active opposition of Booker T. Washington to the appointment of Southern Negroes to office." The Home News of Alexandria Va., has been good enough to send advance sheets of its current editorial on this matter, which brings to public view not only the evasive character of Dr. Washington's denial as given out to Colored papers, but also his method of utilizing the Colored press under his control, a method which can hardly be called honorable, and which, to us, appears a clear case of the "hush" money. This is what the Home News says:

For some time it has been charged with more or less directness that from some unknown source matter in the interest of Booker T. Washington has been supplied to certain race papers which have published it in their editorial columns as their own views and determinations.

The accused, knowing that such practices would be stamped as discreditable if not as dishonest, have vehemently resented the accusations.

In confirmation of these charges last week there appeared in a number of Bookerite papers the following article, word for word:

"Booker T. Washington, in an interview published in the New York World and other New York papers, Friday morning, January 19, respecting the recently-published statement that he had advised the President to remove all Colored officeholders in the South said: 'I have given no such advice. The statement is false.'

"It seems well to call this statement to the attention of our readers, because of the widely-published statement in the Southern newspapers to the effect that Mr. Washington had counseled the President to remove all Colored men who were holding office in the South. In view of the fact that numbers of them whose removal has been sought by the lily white Republicans are still retained in large measure because of Mr. Washington's intervention, the statement from the beginning seemed incredible. The authoritative denial by Mr. Washington sets that rumor at rest."

We notice it in "The Freeman" of Indianapolis, "The Sentinel" of Pensacola, "The Journal" of Cleveland, "The Record" of Washington, and "The Afro-American Ledger" of Baltimore.

In most cases it was right in the editorial columns. In one or two it was mixed up with words of the editor or put at the tail end of the "news."

It will be noticed that this article is carefully worded so as to convey the impression to the reader that the views therein are the editors own deductions from facts of which he presumably has knowledge.

With full appreciation of the import and seriousness of the statement, we assert that the publication of that article or any similar one as editorial matter or, indeed, in any way which did not clearly indicate its source and authority, was a disgrace to the profession and plainly fraudulent.

We are at a loss to see how editors who engage in such practices, except

they explain or apologize, can claim honorable standing in the profession.

Now as to the so-called "denial" itself. We will state the facts, and our readers may call it equivocation, dissimulation, tergiversation, or whatever they like.

Reading the above-quoted article carefully, it will be observed that Mr. Washington "denies" that he advised the President to remove all Negro officeholders in the South. No one has accused him of that. The charge that he denies is so far as we have seen a plain invention.

Neither the dispatch to the New York Herald, which we published in part last week, nor in any other statement or dispatch that we have seen was anything about removals. The dispatch did say that it is the President's policy to appoint no more Negroes to office in the South, and that Mr. Washington favored that policy.

Aside from the inherent likelihood of such advice from Mr. Washington we may state that practically the same information was given out over a month ago. It elicited no denial then. On the contrary, it is highly significant that in Booker's Southern mouthpiece, "The Atlanta Independent," there appeared on January 6, a long, characteristically worded "editorial," that strongly defended that course.

It was headed:
THE PRESIDENT'S NEW POLICY
MAY MEAN A PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE RACE.

It said:
... It is alleged that the President Washington that the President will not appoint any more Southern Negroes to responsible federal positions.

... It is alleged that the President has reached this conclusion upon the advice of Booker T. Washington, and from personal contact and observations in the South during his recent trip. The "Independent" does not vouch for the truthfulness of either the President's policy or the advice of Dr. Washington. ... We neither question the timeliness of Mr. Washington's advice or the wisdom of the President's policy. It is our convictions, that if Mr. Washington has had the moral courage to go to Washington and tell the President that the highest development of his people would be best served by distributing party patronage where it would be of some service to the party, he has not only done his country a public service, but he has made a bold step in the direction of correcting the BLUNDER OF ENFRANCHISING the Negro without qualification.

"We lay down the proposition that the Southern Negro is largely responsible for his own political disabilities and that federal office has had a greater tendency to destroy his worth than to increase his usefulness in the communities where he lives. If the President is moved by a desire to help us in our economic and industrial uplift he is to be commended."

It is rather strange that that editorial, published right under Mr. Washington's nose by a paper which is assumed always to speak for him, did not evoke a denial from him if it did not reflect his views, especially because it stated exactly what the Herald dispatch did later. The fact is, the "denial" does not deny the "Herald" dispatch nor the editorial—"The Guardian," Boston, Mass.